

TONOPAH DAILY BONANZA

Published every evening, Sunday excepted, by the Tonopah Bonanza Printing Co. Incorporated.

W. W. BOOTH, EDITOR AND MANAGER

Terms of Subscription for the Daily Bonanza
One Year by Mail \$12.00 One Month Delivered by Carrier \$1.00
Six Months \$7.00 In Tonopah \$1.00
Single Copies, each 10

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Entered at the postoffice at Tonopah as second class matter
Official Paper for the County of Nye and the Town of Tonopah

BONANZA REACHES ITS MAJORITY TODAY

The Bonanza attains its majority today. Twenty-one years ago, when Tonopah was in its infancy the first issue of the Bonanza made its appearance in the form of a weekly. The first issue was published by W. W. Booth, the present editor, who has been at the helm ever since. The publisher believed then in the future of Tonopah and still believes in the town. He believes this to be the greatest and most prolific mineral region on this continent, and is still of the opinion that the life of the district will be of long duration.

The Bonanza has endeavored to be a power for good in the uplifting of southern Nevada, and the editor believes that his efforts have not been in vain. Lateral and loyal support has at all times been forthcoming, and the people of this community have, we believe, been appreciative of our endeavors to work at all times for a greater and bigger Tonopah and southern Nevada.

The Bonanza is the oldest daily paper in southern Nevada. It is the pioneer in the field of molding public opinion and as a natural consequence has a large following. Its circulation covers the field thoroughly, and as an advertising medium it has no equal. In a news way, it has always chronicled the events of the day in a clear and concise manner, and has never been found wavering. It is owned by no clique or corporation, but is the people's paper in the truest sense.

The editor is appreciative of the loyal support that has always been forthcoming, and assures our family of readers that the scope of our activities will be broadened from time to time, and that the truth will continue to be told regarding conditions of every sort and nature, let the chips fall where they may. We have established many enduring friendships during the twenty-second year of the publication has been published, and we have made some enemies. Of the first we are happy and proud, of the second we have no misgivings.

In entering upon the twenty-second years of the publication of the Bonanza the editor assures its friends that the paper will ever keep abreast of the times. He promises his readers a better and brighter paper, and will leave no stone unturned that will prove for the betterment of Tonopah in particular, and the whole of southern Nevada in general.

ANOTHER LEGACY

President Harding has sent to congress an estimate for a deficiency appropriation of over \$28,000,000 for refunding income taxes illegally collected. This is a particularly aggravating hold-over from the Wilson administration. After the republicans have lowered the tax burden and cut expenditures to the bone to make them fit the decreased revenue, along comes a court decision to the effect that the democrats collected millions of dollars in income taxes without warrant of law. Of course there is nothing to do but pay the refunds, regardless of how big a dent it may make in the annual budget. The former administration, of course, got the benefit of the illegal receipts and spent the money. Now the republicans are not only deprived of further taxes from the same source, but

must pay back the money taken in by their predecessors in office. The republican economy program gets hit both going and coming.

THE NORMAL WAY

A New York syndicate has signed a contract for a loan of \$100,000,000 to Yugoslavia. Thirty million dollars is to be available at once, and the balance as it may be needed by the government. This is the normal way for the extension of foreign credit. Of course it is the money of the American people that goes abroad, whether the foreign obligations are sold through a private banking firm or accepted by the treasury in exchange for funds raised from taxation. But banking is a business, just like any other industry in which there is an element of profit, and there is no more reason for the government to engage in it than to compete with private operations in other lines.

TOM HAS A NEW ONE

Senator Tom Watson of Georgia has sprung a new one from his shelf of sensations. This time Secretary Hoover is pictured as a follower of the late Russian czar, and as working to overthrow the soviets and restore the czarist government. Senator Watson's charges are becoming to broad and diversified that a republican official not included in them is apt to think he does not amount to much.

WATSON STARTS SOMETHING

Senator James E. Watson of Indiana is receiving numerous congratulations on his speech covering the activities of foreign diplomats in attempting to influence the course of our legislation. His remarks have had an immediate effect among the foreign delegations at Washington. It is understood that Ambassador Geddes, to whose recent speeches Senator Watson specifically referred, has visited Secretary Hughes in an attempt to show that he did not violate international courtesy in his public addresses. The representatives from other countries are similarly concerned, and there is every reason to believe that discretion will govern their future utterances.

THE LAXITIES OF LAW

In passing upon applications for clemency for condemned criminals, Governor Miller of New York makes some observations that are worthy of note. "I am convinced," he declares, "that laxity in the administration of the criminal law and uncertainty of the execution of the judgments of the courts directly tend to increase crime. Unfortunately many are deterred from committing crime only by the fear of punishment, and the executive power must be sparingly exercised to maintain that wholesome respect for the law upon which the security of society depends."

Too frequent exercise of executive clemency is not the only influence that is breaking down respect for the law. It frequently happens that society must wait years before the processes of law permit the infliction of a penalty upon a murderer caught red handed, and of whose guilt there is not the slightest doubt. Evasions of the plaintiff intent and wording of the law in burglaries and crimes of less degree are of almost daily occurrence. It is

not necessary for a guilty individual to make a desperate break for liberty to gain his freedom. The law itself and devious court processes provide the loopholes through which he has a good chance for freedom. All he has to do is to secure the services of an unscrupulous lawyer cunning enough to detect and make full use of all the means at hand for the defeat of justice.

Penalties are provided in the criminal law not so much to punish the criminal as to prevent future violations by him and post a warning to others similarly inclined of what will happen to them if they do likewise. The penalty is primarily the protection of society from crime, rather than the revenge of society upon the criminal after his deed is committed. But the moral effect of the punishment is largely dissipated unless it is inflicted while the nature of the crime is still fresh in the public mind. Whatever may be said in criticism of lynch law, it has the merit of prompt application. Everybody in the community knows that death was the penalty for the crime the wretch committed, and every evil-minded person knows what he may expect if he attempts a similar outrage against society.

Many innocent persons are undoubtedly lynched, and none of them is accorded the fair trial that the constitution of the United States guarantees every citizen. Lynch law is an institution that ought to be suppressed, but it will always be with us unless the law and the courts cease to be less a refuge for the criminal and more the machinery for the prompt and effective dispensation of justice. In some states of the south, lynching has become a habit and mob rule is the accepted order when certain crimes are committed. In other states the people generally restrain themselves from taking the law into their own hands, but dissatisfaction with loose criminal law and procrastinating courts is with them just the same.

Public speakers and writers frequently harp upon the "crime wave" that they see sweeping over the country. Statistics apparently sustain their contention that recent years have seen an increase in deeds of violence, but the wave would quickly subside if every official to whom the public has entrusted its protection would take note of the fact emphasized by Governor Miller that crime increase is due to "laxity in the administration of the criminal law and uncertainty of the execution of the judgments of the courts."

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